

## **Minutes of Parish Council meeting held via Zoom on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020.**

**Apologies:** There were no apologies for absence.

**Present:** Jeff Smith (chair), Dave Clarke (vice-chair); Geoff Hughes, John Meredith, Gavin Ritson, Joy Whibberley, Philip Morrey, TK Al Jorani, Richard Moulds and Richard Simm.

**Play area update:** Dave advised that the new litter bin had been installed in the right area with a promise of lifetime collections. He said that Phase 4 had been completed with a balance of £6,123 in the fund. A question had been raised concerning the provision of netball hoops on the 5-a-side area and the implications and costs would be investigated further. An all-weather running track had also been mentioned. Phil Goodall is happy to carry on with the project. Gavin agreed to have a look at Dave's spreadsheet showing the balance available.

**Road safety update:** Richard Moulds had amended the letter to Sean Traynor in the light of the recent accident on the A41 involving a Christleton High School pupil. This letter to be sent prior to meeting arranged with Mr. Traynor.

Parish Cycling Plans - John Beckett and John Violet have produced lobbying update and a meeting is arranged for the end of January. Cheshire West & Chester Council are in the process of appointing a Decarbonisation Transport Officer.

The Parish Council supported the letter Richard had prepared and agreed that the average speed monitoring should start much further back on the A41 and include Waverton which may give more weight to the proposals. Phil asked why the Waverton/Christleton bypass plans could not be reinstated. Richard Moulds felt it may be worth looking at the "crash map" website in the future.

Dave reported on the A51 feedback. Sean Traynor is new in the role and may be taking a fresh look at things. It was also mentioned that Highways Department covers roads above 40 mph and Street Scene deals with roads below this speed. They will also provide equipment to Parishes who wish to complete minor works in their areas.

**Annual Precept:** Last year we claimed £38,500 annual precept. Projects considered for 2021/22 would be additional grass cutting on the Playing Field and John will discuss with Groundforce the possibility of cut with grass collection and obtain cost for as and when cuts. It needs around £20,000 to run the Parish with the £18,500 across other projects. Occasional maintenance will be required around the play area. Clark & Kent will maintain once in the first year and then we are on our own. Following discussion, it was agreed that the 2021/22 Annual Precept would be set at £39,500; proposed by Phil Morrey and seconded by John Meredith. All Councillors in favour.

**Village Hall:** Jeff reported that we intend to ask for completion date of first draft of Heads of Agreement; nothing heard from Village Hall Management Committee as yet. Geoff Hughes advised that mention of solar panels has been made regarding the Village Hall. John said that there is a First Aid box in the kitchen of the Village Hall but this is for Hall use only.

**Planning applications/decisions:** These were all up to date. Stuart to be asked to confirm what happens next with regards to Old Post Office situation.

### **Any other business:**

- Richard Moulds reported on an e-mail received from Elaine Belcher regarding the planting of trees in the area. It was felt that these would ultimately be large trees and would need a large area. The Parish Council has no land available and any possible

land space would be Grosvenor Estate, Crocky Trail or Primary School. Richard Moulds agreed to take the matter forward and liaise with Elaine regarding her ideas.

- John Meredith asked if any progress had been made with Cheshire West & Chester Council regarding weed clearance. Clerk to report matter again.
- John advised that the Christmas decorations would be taken down on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January. Joy will take down the wreaths.
- Phil enquired whether a post collection box would be sited at the Pharmacy Post Office as the one on Moor Lane is not big enough to accept larger letters. Clerk will speak to Mr Ahmed regarding this after Christmas.
- Joy asked why the Happy Days coach appears to be parked on the Village Green on a permanent basis. Apparently this had been on the advice of our local PCSO for safety reasons and it was felt that nothing further could be done.

**Date of next meeting:**

**Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021** – as it is unlikely that we will be able to meet physically the recurring Zoom invitation still stands

***There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.***